

REMARKS

The subject application includes pending claims 1-48 which were the subject of a notice of allowance mailed January 21, 2005. Subsequent to the notice of allowance, applicants received an International Search Report from the International Searching Authority for the corresponding international PCT application mailed February 8, 2005. The International Search Report cited references not previously considered during the examination of the subject application. Copies of the references cited therein are submitted herewith in the accompanying Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the present application from allowance along with further examination of the enclosed amended claims, in light of the references cited in the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 19, and have added new claims 49-64 in the present Amendments Accompanying a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments and new claims presented herein are fully supported by the application as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that the claims of the present application, as amended herein, are directed to subject matter that is patentable over the cited references.

Applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below so that those concerns may be addressed.

Respectfully submitted,



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